

Remarks

Claims 21-32 are pending. Claims 21-24 and 29-30 are canceled herein without prejudice. Claims 21-32 remain free of the prior art, and claims 25-28 and 31-32 are allowable. See Office Action, page 12. It is believed that these amendments add no new matter and present no new issues. In light of these amendments and the following remarks, applicant respectfully requests entry of these amendments, reconsideration of this application, and allowance of the claims.

35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 21-24 and 29-30 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention for reasons presented in the Office Action mailed March 10, 2003.

In order to expedite allowance of the pending claims, and not admitting that claims 21-24 and 29-30 lack enablement, applicants herein cancel claims 21-24 and 29-30 without prejudice, thereby rendering these rejections moot in regard to these claims. Thus, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

Allowable claims

Claims 25-28 and 31-32 are allowable. See Office Action, page 12.

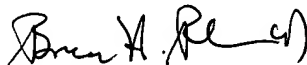
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Pursuant to the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the pending application are believed to be warranted. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to directly contact the undersigned if such contact may enhance the efficient prosecution of this application to issue.

Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038, authorizing payment in the amount of \$640.00 (representing a \$165.00 Notice of Appeal fee and a \$475.00 three (3) month extension of time fee, to extend the period of response by three months, i.e., to June 15, 2004) is enclosed. This amount is believed to be correct; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0629.

Respectfully submitted,

NEEDLE & ROSENBERG, P.C.

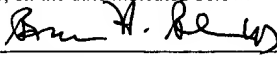


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Bruce H. Becker, M.D.

6/14/04
Date